

Corps of Engineers flood-fight teams will remain overnight in all Western Washington river basins

Contact: Public Affairs 206-764-3750 or the Information Line for recorded updates at 1-866-596-2635

SEATTLE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Reservoir Control Center and Emergency Operations Center remains in 24-hour operation.

Corps flood teams are currently out on the Olympic Peninsula, and in the Snohomish, Skagit, Green, Chehalis, Puyallup and Nooksack river basins. A flood team is also providing support in the Yakima River basin. In total, more than 60 flood fighters are deployed.

Today, the Corps of Engineers is working on flood fight efforts along the South Skagit Highway. The Corps also is supporting flood fight efforts at the Stanwood Sewage Treatment Plant levee.

The Corps is finishing up work on a temporary raise of the Bridge Road levee in Orting and a flood fight at the Alward Levee on the Carbon River. The Corps also is finishing constructing a berm across Thunder Road to protect the Quileute property.

The Pilchuck levee, near the city of Snohomish, experienced some damage, but the Corps was able to respond in time and provide some repairs to minimize flooding risk.

The Corps has provided 108,000 sandbags to local governments.

"The Corps has teams of emergency responders that assist in floods and natural disasters and they are supporting local governments as requested," said Seattle District Emergency Management chief Paul Komoroske.

Public Law 84-99 enables the Corps to assist state and local authorities in flood fight activities and cost share in the repair of flood protection structures. The purpose is to prevent loss of life and minimize property damage associated with severe weather.

The Corps operates dams in the White/Puyallup, Green/Duwamish, Skagit and Wynoochee basins for flood risk reduction.

Currently Howard Hanson Dam on the Green River is releasing 5,600 cfs (cubic feet per second) outflow; while receiving 17,000 cfs of inflow. Mud Mountain Dam on the White River (which feeds the Puyallup) is experiencing inflows of 17,000 cfs and releasing 8,000 cfs. Plans are to release up to 12,000 cfs from the dam for the purpose of evacuating stored flood water from the reservoir. Those downstream along the White River may experience some nuisance flooding during this release.

The Corps is providing flood control operations management for the Wynoochee Dam, where inflows are 3,000 cfs with outflows at 1,345 cfs. The Corps had been operating Upper Baker and Ross Dams along the Skagit River for flood control over the past few days but has returned operation of these dams to the project owners as the river is now below flood stage.

For more information on the Corps, and up-to-date river forecasts, go to www.nws.usace.army.mil and click on Rivers and Reservoirs. Lake and river information is available at:
<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/nws/hh/basins/>

Private citizens seeking sandbags should contact their local government offices.

The National Weather Service issues flood watches and warnings and should be consulted for that information.